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Notes

[Contributions in the form of notes or discussions should be sent to John A. Scott, Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.]

NEPOS AND ROMAN PRAISE OF HANNIBAL

On page 265 of the *Classical Journal* for February, 1921, Mr. Louis E. Lord, of Oberlin College, writes, "In all Latin literature I know of no generous tribute to Hannibal." Evidently Mr. Lord has overlooked or has forgotten the first chapter of Nepos' life of Hannibal:

Si verum est, quod nemo dubitat, ut populus Romanus omnis gentis virtute superarit, non est infitandum Hannibalem tanto praestitisse ceteros imperatores prudentia quanto populus Romanus antecedit fortitudine cunctas nationes. Nam quotienscumque cum eo congressus est in Italia, semper discessit superior. Quod nisi domi civium suorum invidia debilitatus esset, Romanos videtur superare potuisse. Sed multorum obtrectatio devicit unius virtutem.

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THE TEST OF THE PATRONYMICS

Wilhelm Meyer's dissertation *de Homericis Patronymicis*, Goettingen, 1907, was immediately welcomed as a work of very great importance by reviewers and critics, as I have already shown in *Classical Philology*, VII, 293.

The summary of his results was given by him as follows: "The patronymics grow rarer, not only in the later portions of the *Iliad*, but also in all parts of the *Odyssey*. From this decreasing use of the patronymics it is evident that there must have been an interval of many years between the composition of these two poems."

This dissertation was passed upon by two scholars of the standing of Schwartz and Wackernagel, as well as submitted to an *Examen rigorosum*, so that in my previous paper I accepted many of his statements as facts and tried to bring them into harmony with my own beliefs in the unity of the Homeric poems.

In my previous discussion I explained the difference in the number of the patronymics, as shown in the two poems, as due to the fact that there are so many more heroes in the *Iliad*, men of patronymic rank, while in the *Odyssey* many of the actors are mean or commonplace, hence could hardly have that honoring epithet.

The greater number in the *Iliad* was on this explanation due to the rank of the actors and not to a change in feeling or in the use of the patronymic.

Even this solution is entirely unnecessary, for the markedly decreasing use of the patronymics in *tota Odyssea* is pure fiction, as this simple test will prove.

The two books which Meyer regarded as belonging to the oldest stratum are A and X. The following men who appear in A have patronymics: Achilles, Calchas, Agamemnon, Menelaus, and Patroclus, that is, five in all. The following in X have patronymics: Achilles, Agamemnon, Menelaus, and Priam, or four in all. Of these which appear in X only one is not found in A, so that but six of the men who appear or are mentioned in these two books have patronymics. These two books have a combined length of 1,126 verses.

The book which all the critics put as the latest and worst in Homer is the last book of the *Odyssey*.

In this last book of the *Odyssey* the following men are mentioned with the honoring patronymic: Achilles, Agamemnon, Laertes, Odysseus, Patroclus, Apheidas, Halitherses, or seven in all. Hence book twenty-four of the *Odyssey* in 548 verses has one more actor who is given a patronymic than the 1,126 verses of A and X.

A test applied to the first book of the *Odyssey*, another book which the critics have regarded as late, shows that it has the following patronymics: Atreides, Agamemnonides, Mermerides, and Peisenorides, only one of which is found in the *Iliad*. This first book has in 444 verses as many patronymics as X has in 515, and two of the patronymics found in this first book appear nowhere else, while each of the patronymics found in X is repeated in many books of the *Iliad*.

One need hardly seek for satisfying reasons to meet the statement, "Ut in Iliadis recentibus partibus ita in tota Odyssea patronymicorum usus rarescere incipit," since all that is necessary is to find the examples and then to count them.

Recently I was in an engineering school in which the task was set of making a concrete arch capable of supporting a certain weight. When the arch was completed the test was at once applied and if there was any defect in construction the arch immediately collapsed. The weakness of classical instruction is that there is no ready test for measuring the thing accomplished and a person who honestly judges a dissertation is obliged not only to read it but to prepare a duplicate dissertation of his own.

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